

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SCI-06 AEC-11 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3377

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NZ, FR, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN COMMENT ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS

REF: WELLINGTON 1781

1. AUSTRALIAN MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR WILLESEE, ISSUED STATEMENT JUNE 10 TAKING NOTE OF FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 8 ON DECLARATION OF PROHIBITED ZONE FOR NUCLEAR TESTS. WILLESEE STATEMENT REITERATES CONTINUING AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION TO TESTS AND CONCERN THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT STILL DISREGARDS INTERIM ORDER MADE BY INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE IN JUNE, 1973.

2. AUSTRALIAN STATEMENT, IN MORE CONCILIATORY TONE, WELCOMES FRENCH ASSURANCE OF INTENTION TO LIMIT OR END TESTS IN ATMOSPHERE AS MOVE IN RIGHT DIRECTION. HOWEVER, WILLESEE NOTED

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"THAT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FELL SHORT OF A SPECIFIC

UNDERTAKING BY FRANCE TO END ALL ATMOSPHERIC TESTS IN THE PACIFIC AFTER THIS YEAR, SO THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION BY FRANCE OF ATMOSPHERIC TESTING NEXT YEAR COULD NOT BE COMPLETELY RULED OUT AT THIS STAGE."

3. FURTHER ON UNDERGROUND TESTING, WILLESEE REITERATED AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT, "WHILE UNDERGROUND TESTING MAY PRODUCE LESS SERIOUS HAZARDS THAN ATMOSPHERIC TESTING, AUSTRALIA WAS OPPOSED TO ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING BY ANY POWER AND IN ANY ENVIRONMENT. THIS VIEW HAD BEEN CLEARLY EXPRESSED BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN A JOINT STATEMENT WITH THE NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY LAST YEAR."

4. COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN AUSTRALIAN MEDIA OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN FRANCE REGARDING NUCLEAR TESTING AND SOME EDITORIAL COMMENT DEPLORING FRENCH DECISIONS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NOTICEABLY LESS INTEREST IN RETALIATION OR TRADE AND COMMUNICATIONS INTERRUPTION WITH FRANCE, LARGELY BASED ON EXPERIENCE THAT SUCH MEASURES HAVE NO RPT NO EFFECT ON FRENCH DECISION. FRENCH EMBASSY IN CANBERRA APPEARS FRELATIVELY RELAXED ON MATTER.
GREEN

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